

Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of performing a management task, the task modifying information associated with one or more back-end resources in a distributed network, the method comprising:

receiving information from a first resource related to a first task, the first task for a first managed object of a predetermined object type, wherein the information received from the first resource indicates whether the first resource is used to perform the management task;

receiving information from a second resource related to a second task, the second task associated with the first managed object, wherein the information received from the second resource indicates whether the second resource is used to perform the management task;

storing in a memory the information received from the second resource in association with the information received from the first resource;

receiving a request to perform the management task in relation to the first managed object;

determining, based on the stored information, which of the first and second resource to call in response to the request; and

sending a task request to the determined resource to perform the management task on the first managed object, wherein the sending occurs after receiving information from the first resource and receiving information from the second resource.

2. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request to display task information related to the first object; and

displaying task information received from both back-end resources in response to the request to display task information.

3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises
receiving static task information related to the object type of the first managed
object;
storing the static task information in a task store;
receiving dynamic task information related to the first managed object, the
dynamic task information including a task handler identification within the back-end
resource; and
in response to the request to display task information, displaying both static and
dynamic task information.
4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the task handler identification is a
pointer to some executable code on the first resource.
5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the task handler identification
relates to executable code on the first resource and the second resource.
6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3 wherein the method further comprises:
in response to the request to display task information, retrieving static task
information from the task store;
sending a request for dynamic task information to one of the resources using the
handler identification, the request including instance information for the first managed
object; and
receiving dynamic task information for the instance of the first managed object.
7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprising:
associating a first management task with a second management task; and
storing a script function, wherein the script function is callable and performs both
the first management task and the second management task.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) In a network environment having multiple resources, a computer storage medium encoding instructions for executing a method, the method comprising:

- receiving a request from a new resource to install the new resource on the network environment, the request being in a predetermined format;
- including in the request communication information associated with the new resource;
- verifying the installation of the new resource;
- retrieving task information associated with the new resource, wherein the task information relates to an object type managed by the new resource;
- storing in a memory the task information associated with the new resource; and
- sharing the task information with another resource on the network.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium as defined in claim 13 wherein the notification includes the task information.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium as defined in claim 13, the method further comprising:

- determining whether the task information relates to an existing managed object type;
- if so, associating the task information with the existing object type; and
- if not, associating the task information with a new object type.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium as defined in claim 15 further comprising:
receiving a request to perform a management task with respect to an object type;
and
performing the management task with respect to all instances of the object type.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium as defined in claim 15 further comprising:
receiving a request to display available tasks for an object type; and
displaying the management tasks available with respect to the object type.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for task-based management of a plurality of resources comprising:
a processor; and
a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising computer-program instructions executable by the process for:
identifying a plurality of resources which are in communication with a
management module ~~in communication with the plurality of resources~~, wherein each of the resources are configured to provide information corresponding to the management of a plurality of objects associated with each of the resources, wherein at least one of the plurality of objects is a user object that contains information corresponding to a network user, and wherein the management module is capable of receiving a request to access the information related to one or more of the plurality of resources and to receive task information from the plurality of resources related to their associated objects;
wherein in response to receipt of a request to perform a network administration task, the management module performing task functions on the associated objects of more than one resource; and
~~a scripting manager for combining the task functions into a single script function~~
through the use of a scripting manager.

19. (Previously presented) A system as defined in claim 18, wherein the management module comprises a task manager to receive and store task information, the task manager further communicates with the resources to perform the network administration task.

20. (Original) A system as defined in claim 19 wherein each of the plurality of resources provides information to the task manager in XML format.

21. (Canceled)